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RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

A N N U A L
R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1955

F.W. BUNTING, M.B.E., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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SANITARY INSPECTOR
R.C. Haycock, A.R.S.I., A.M.Inst.H.E.

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Miss N. Johnson

Council Offices,

RAINFORD,

May, 1956.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RAINFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you the 25th Annual Report on the health of Rainford for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

I am again glad to report that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The adjusted death rate of 13.7 compares favourably with previous years and showed a reduction compared with 1954 (14.6).

The birth rate has shown a decrease, the rate being 15.2 compared with 19.7 for the previous year.

The death rate amongst children under the age of one year (infant mortality) has shown a marked decrease being 15 per thousand live births. The average over the past five years was 30 per thousand live births. One infant died during the year.

There has been a marked decrease in the incidence of infectious diseases, a total of 63 cases being notified.

I am happy to report that no cases of diphtheria or polio have been notified, and am also happy to report that for the eighth successive year there were no maternal deaths.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

F.W. BUNTING

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

STATISTICS

Area in acres	5,877
Registrar General's estimate of population mid-1955	4,220
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Book	1,386
Rateable Value	23,575
Product of a penny rate..	£98.4. 7

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

	Live Births		Deaths All causes		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality	
	No registered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. registered	Rate per 1000 pop'n	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1000 total births
Year 1955	66	15.2	53	13.7	2	29	Nil	Nil
" 1954	85	19.7	56	14.6	2	23	-	-
" 1953	84	19.3	48	12.3	2	23	-	-
" 1952	63	15.2	35	11.3	3	45	-	-
" 1951	85	21.1	53	13.1	2	23	-	-
" 1950	58	14.3	44	10.9	-	-	-	-
Average 5 year 1950 - 1954		17.9	-	12.4	-	22.8	-	-

Infant Mortality

Total			Neo-Natal	
No. of deaths registered		Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths registered	Rate per 1,000 live births
Year 1955	1	15	Nil	Nil
" 1954	3	35	2	24
" 1953	2	24	2	24
" 1952	3	48	1	16
" 1951	1	12	1	12
" 1950	2	34	2	34
Average 5 years 1950 - 1954		30	-	22

Adjusted (live birth rate(comparability factor 0.97) = 19.7 per 1,000

(death rate(comparability factor 1.09) = 14.6 per 1,000

DETAILS OF VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Total	M	F
Legitimate	65	35	30
Illegitimate	1	1	-
TOTAL	66	36	30

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1955 = 15.2

Deaths	Total	M	F
TOTAL	53	27	26
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1955 = 13.7			

Maternal Mortality

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion - Nil.
Mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age

All infants per 1,000 live births = 15

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births = 15

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births = Nil

Neo-natal Mortality

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age = Nil

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - Nil

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1955 FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Birth rates, death rates, analysis of mortality, maternal mortality and case rates for certain infectious diseases in the Year 1955.

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

Estimated home population mid-1955 - 44,441,000

	No.	Rate per 1000 home population
Births		
Live births	664,711	15.0
Stillbirths	15,748	
Deaths		
All causes	518,657	11.7
Tuberculosis (all forms)	6,493	0.15
Respiratory	5,838	0.13
Non-respiratory	655	0.02
Cancer (all forms)	91,337	2.06
Lung and bronchus	17,271	0.39
Other cancer	74,066	1.67
Maternal mortality (total)	437	0.64(a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	369	0.54(a)
Due to abortion	68	0.10(a)
Infant mortality	16,515	24.9 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	11,518	17.3 (b)
Notifications (corrected)		
Typhoid fever	190	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	871	0.02
Meningococcal infection	1,126	0.03
Scarlet fever	32,591	0.73
Whooping cough	79,092	1.78
Diphtheria	169	0.00
Erysipelas	4,612	0.10
Smallpox	nil	nil
Measles	693,741	15.61
Pneumonia	27,899	0.63
Acute poliomyelitis -		
Paralytic	3,710	0.08
Non-paralytic	2,621	0.06
Acute encephalitis -		
Infective	148	0.00
Post-infectious	118	0.00
Dysentery	36,698	0.83
Food poisoning	12,717	0.29
Puerperal pyrexia	12,108	0.27
Tuberculosis -		
Respiratory	34,209	0.77
Meninges & C.N.S.	533	0.01
Other	4,162	0.09

(a) per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
(b) per 1,000 related births.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There have been no major changes in the General Health Services during the year.

The Child welfare and Ante-natal clinics which are run by the Lancashire County Council continue to be much appreciated by mothers in Rainford and are well attended.

A very successful children's party was run in the Village Hall at Christmas Time the hall being very kindly lent by courtesy of the Rainford U.D.C.

Immunisation against diphtheria

This is the responsibility of the local divisional health committee. No change of procedure has occurred and vigorous campaign continues to be carried out to encourage parents to have their children immunised. During the year 1 child under the age of 5 years and 3 children of school age completed the full course of primary immunisation.

75 reinforcement injections were also given (6 under 5 years).

Diphtheria & whooping Cough

32 children under the age of 5 years were immunised and 4 reinforcement injections were given (2 under 5 years).

Whooping Cough

30 children under the age of 5 years were immunised.

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

33 children under the age of 5 years were immunised.

Dysentery

There were no cases of dysentery notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever

There were 4 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Water is obtained from the St. Helens Corporation by agreement and the supply is satisfactory both in quality and quantity. All the houses in Rainford are supplied from the mains with the exception of four supplied by wells. Negotiations are in hand with a view to a piped supply being provided by owners to three of the properties.

Sewerage and sewage disposal

The present sewage works at Rookery Lane and Berringtons Lane continue to show good effluent but as the works are getting older and more houses have been erected maintenance of these works presents an increasing problem.

Sewerage Requirements

There are two sewage works, one situated in Berringtons Lane which serves modern property fronting St. Helens Road and this capable of extension. The sewage works at Rookery Lane serves Rainford Village. The main sewer is capable of extension to take sewage from portions of the North End.

At the end of the year schemes for Crank and the North End sewerage were practically complete and discussions were continuing with the Ministry of Health.

Closet Accommodation

Type	No.
Pails	43
Wet closets with ashpits	197
Dry ashpits	2
Ashbins	1,176

Public Cleansing

This continues to be one of the Council's biggest problems due to the scattered nature of the District and lack of adequate tipping facilities. Expenditure is high and it is difficult to know how to effect further economies without losing efficiency.

There are seasonal increases in the contents of bins with the consequence that bin collecting and privy emptying have to suffer. A new lorry of larger capacity and more modern design has been purchased to replace the old vehicle.

Ashpit privy conversion

During the year 8 privy closets were converted to fresh water closets. This leaves approximately 197 to be converted.

HOUSING

During the year a full inspection was made of a number of properties and detailed reports submitted to the Council for consideration.

As a result the following properties were found to be unfit and were scheduled for demolition. These recommendations were forwarded to the Ministry.

10	Mackies Terrace
8	Bartons Row
6	Crank Hill
2	Victoria Street

(20 of these are to be demolished during 1956 and 6 during 1957).

During the year 14 Council Houses were completed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Shops

The Shops Act, 1934, and Shops Act, 1950, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences are administered by the Urban District Council.

It has not been necessary to take any action during the year.

Milk Supply

Time and attention is devoted to this important subject with a view to providing and maintaining a pure and safe milk supply. Inspections of premises to ensure a pure and safe milk supply were continued during the year and 16 informal samples were taken.

Communal Feeding

The Cooking Centre in Alfred Street has been inspected and found to be constantly in a satisfactory condition.

Meat and other foods - Slaughter houses and meat inspections

One slaughter house was in operation during the year and 95 inspections of this and the carcases were made.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901 & FACTORIES ACT 1937 AND 1948

No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops within the district since last year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 1955 the total number of notifications of infectious diseases received was 63.

Whooping Cough

There were 8 cases of whooping cough compared with 28 during the year 1954.

Measles

There was a marked decrease in the number of cases of measles. 44 cases were notified compared with 77 during the previous year.

Diphtheria

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year and it is now 10 years since a case was notified in the district.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TABLE OF NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1955

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	AGE PERIODS - YEARS									
		o-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65& over	Age Unknown
Small Pox											
Scarlet Fever	4			1	3						
Diptheria (including membranous croup)...											
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding paratyphoid)											
Paratyphoid fever...											
Measles (excluding rubella)	44		9	19	16						
Whooping Cough.. ...	8		2	4	2						
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal).	1								1		
Puerperal pyrexia...											
Meningococcal infection...											
Acute poliomyelitis											
Paralytic.											
Non-paralytic. ...											
Acute encephalitis											
Infective.											
Post-infectious...											
Dysentery...											
Ophthalmia neonatorum..											
Erysipelas..	1									1	
Malaria (Contracted (in England (and Wales (Abroad											
Food poisoning.. ...											
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.: chicken-pox... ...											
Any other disease (Specify)											
TOTALS	58		11	24	21				1	1	

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives the numbers of new cases of both forms of the disease, together with the deaths therefrom. The figures include all primary cases and other cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
Years	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-								
1-								
2-				1				
5-								
10-								
15-								
20-	1							
25-		1						
35-		1						
45-	1							
55-								
65-								
75 and upwards								
TOTALS	2	2		1				

Following the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1948, treatment became the responsibility of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

Full co-operation exists with the Tuberculosis Officer covering the Rainford area.

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